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THE OBSERVATOR.

The Case of the Palatine *Protestants consider'd; with a brief Account of their former and present Sufferings, and some Methods propos'd for their Relief. Their Calamities a sufficient Argument to make us secure our selves effectually against Popish Successors, and their Abettors at Home and Abroad.*

From Saturday, June 11. to Wednesday, June 15. 1709.

Country-m. HEre's a Letter, Master, from a worthy Gentleman, who desires you would say something in order to excite People to bestow their Charity on the poor *Palatine* Protestants, who are come hither in such Numbers, and in such a deplorable Condition.

Obs. One would think there should be no need of Arguments in a Country where the Gospel has been preach'd so long, and in such Purity, *Roger*, to excite such as are able to extend their Bowels of Compassion to our poor persecuted Protestant Brethren from any Part of the World; especially to us, who, if Providence had not interpos'd in our Behalf by the late happy Revolution, might have been in the same deplorable Circumstances our selves. History informs us how many of our own Protestants were forc'd to seek for Shelter beyond Seas in the Time of Queen *Mary*'s Persecution, and what kind Entertainment they met with at *Frankfort* in *Germany*, in the *Palatinate*, the *Netherlands*, *Swisserland*, *&c.* in those Days, and what a melancholy Prospect we had of being oblig'd to fly from the like Persecution in the Reign of the late King *James*, when some of our Bishops were clapt up in the *Tower*, some of our Preachers suspended from the Exercise of their Ministry, our Colleges were put into the Hands of Papists, our Councils, Armies, Fleets, and all the publick Posts in the Nation were filling with them as fast as they could; when her present Majesty was forc'd to flee from her Father's Court, to avoid being sent to the *Tower*, and made a Sacrifice to *Romish* Fury, as was intended for her glorious Predecessor Queen *Elizabeth*. If we have not wickedly and scandalously forgot those melancholy Circumstances, and how opportunely God deliver'd us from them, *Roger*, we shall need no Arguments to press us to extend our Charity to the poor *Palatine* Protestants. We need only put our Souls in their Souls Stead, and consider what we would have expected from Fellow-Protestants in the like Circumstances.

Country-m. I am wholly of your Mind, Master, and wish, that we may all follow her Majesty's glorious Example, who, remembring the Days of her own Affliction, has, in such a Royal and bountiful Manner, extended her Charity to those oppress'd and impoverish'd Protestants. I hope our Clergy, many of whom are the most richly endow'd of any Clergy-men in the World, and have had the longest and most uninterrupted Course of Prosperity of any Protestants in *Europe*, will consider what is expected from them in such a Juncture, that they will in this, as in other Things, shew good Examples to their Flock, and consider, that our Saviour, at the Day of Judgment, will take particular Notice, whether, when he was an hunger'd, they gave him Meat, when he was a thirsty, they gave him Drink, when he was a Stranger, they took him in, when he was naked, they cloath'd him, when he was sick, they visited him, and when he was in Prison, they came unto him; and that what they do of that kind to any of the least of his Brethren, he will take it as done unto himself, and severely revenge the Neglect of it.

Obs. You say very well, *Roger*; it becomes all our Clergy, Con and Non, to be Examples in this Matter, and to stir up their People to such Labour of Love, until Briefs or other Methods can be fallen upon, for the Relief of those poor Protestants. In the mean Time, I hope our Nobility and Gentry will imitate the Queen's Royal Example; a small part of that which they spend in Superfluities in Diversions, House-keeping, or Apparel, and which they would not so much as miss, might go a great way to relieve the Necessities of those impoverish'd, sick, and destitute Sufferers, and the Nation might soon find themselves Gainers by entertaining them, would our Gentry employ such of them as are vers'd in Husbanday, in improving their waste Grounds; would our Merchants and Planters send such of them as are proper for it, abroad to their Plantations, and if our Government could find Means to send a convenient Number of them to the thin and ill-inhabited Kingdom of *Ireland*, where they might be a hundred times more useful than the lazy Popish Natives, who spend their Days in Sloth and Beggary, and are ready on all Occasions to cut the Throats of the *British* and Protestant Inhabitants. This might tend very much to increase the Revenue, as well as the Security of that Country; and were they plac'd any where near the *Scots*, in that Kingdom, with whom they agree in Point of Religion, they might be mutual Helps to one another.

Country-m. Pray, Master, give me an Account how those *Palatine* Protestants came to be in such Distress? I thought there had been no such flagrant Persecution now in any part of the Empire, as to force such Numbers of Protestants to leave their native Country, and their dearest Relations, especially a Country like the *Palatinate*, which, as I am inform'd, is one of the most pleasant and fruitful Places in *Europe*.

Obs. 'Tis so, *Roger*; and had you travell'd it, as I have done, you would soon be convinc'd of it. 'Tis a perfect Earthly Paradise, lies like a Garden on both sides the *Rhine*, abounds with Wine, Corn, Fruit, and Cattel; was well peopl'd, full of great Cities and Towns, and was one of the most famous Protestant Countries in the Empire. They have bred abundance of Great Men, who communicated their Light and Assistance to other Protestant Churches, but have had many severe Tryals. They suffer'd much by the Imperialists and *Spaniards* during the civil Wars of *Germany*, when their Noble Elector, Father to her Royal Highness the Electoress Dowager of *Hannover*, was oblig'd to put himself at the Head of the oppress'd and persecuted Protestants of *Germany*; and that he might be the more able to protect them, accepted the Crown of *Bohemia*, to which he was legally chosen by the States of that Kingdom; but not being supported, as he had Reason to expect, by his Father-in law, our King *James* the Ist, he lost not only that Crown, but his own hereditary Dominions; his Country was expos'd to the Ravages of the Imperialists under the Duke of *Bavaria*, and of the *Spaniards* under *Spinola*; his Capital of *Heidleberg* sack'd, the famous Protestant Divines of that Country dispers'd, and his reform'd Subjects most barbarously persecuted.

Country-m. Aye, Master, and God has brought

it home upon the Family of *Bavaria*, and the *Spaniſh* Monarchy ſince, has oblig'd both Branches of the Houſe of *Auſtria* to have Recourſe to Proteſtants as their chief Support, and is now pouring out the Vials of his Wrath upon *Lewis* the XIVth, who follow'd them in his Methods of Perſecution; which is a fair Warning for all Perſecutors to beware. But how came the preſent *Palatines* to be in ſuch Diſtreſs, ſince they were reſtor'd to their former Liberty by the *Weſtphalian* Treaty?

Obſ. They had the Misfortune, *Roger*, to live in a Country which lay next to thoſe Provinces that *Lewis* the XIVth had uſurp'd from the Empire, and by Conſequence were expos'd to all thoſe Ravages and Barbarities, which that Tyrant's Luſt of univerſal Empire, and his Hatred to the Proteſtant Religion, could inſpire him with. By this Means he burnt and laid waſte their great and noble Cities, made their Country a Wilderneſs, inſulted the Aſhes of their heroical Princes, whom he durſt not have look'd on the Face when alive, diſpers'd the Proteſtants, and eſtabliſh'd the *Romiſh* Idolatry in their Country. At the Treaty of *Reſwick*, not only they, but other Proteſtants of the Empire were ſcandalouſly neglected, the Popiſh Superſtition was left in Poſſeſſion of all they had gain'd by the Help of the *French* Dragoons, and the poor *Palatines*, to their other Misfortunes, having fallen under the Dominion of Popiſh Princes, who, however moderate of themſelves, yet being under the Influence of Jeſuits, Prieſts, and other Popiſh Councellors, that Part of our Lord's Vineyard in the *Palatinate* has been laid waſte, and our Proteſtant Brethren in that Country reduc'd to the miſerable Condition you ſee them in; which is enough to beſpeak the Charity of all true Proteſtants for their Relief, whoſe Labour of Love will be amply rewarded, if not in this Life, yet certainly at the Great Day of Accounts, when even *a Cup of cold Water given to thoſe who belong to Chriſt, will not loſe its Reward.*

Country-m. We have Reaſon to bleſs God, Maſter, who has deliver'd us hitherto from a Popiſh Succeſſor, that might have brought the ſame Calamities upon theſe Nations. The miſerable Condition of our *Palatine* Brethren, is ſufficient to let us ſee how much we owe to thoſe Men, who gave Encouragement to the *French* King once, and again to invade us, and impoſe a Popiſh Pretender upon us. However, they have eſcap'd Puniſhment from Men for ſuch an unnatural Conſpiracy, I doubt not but Providence will find them out, and that ere a Peace be concluded, the *French* Tyrant ſhall be diſabl'd from renewing ſuch Attempts, and that proper Methods will be taken ſome Time or other, to make thoſe Vipers among us uncapable of entertaining any ſuch Deſigns for Time to come. In the mean Time, I make bold to ſay, that thoſe concern'd in the Adminiſtration, are indiſpenſably oblig'd to have a watchful Eye upon all ſuch as are for heightening Diviſions among Proteſtants in the *Britiſh* Dominions, by Libels or Sermons, wherein they ſtrike at the Foundation of her Majeſty's Title, and endeavour, by their baffl'd Arguments, to run down thoſe Principles which brought about the late happy Revolution, and ſet our glorious Queen upon the Throne, which they deſign'd for a Perſon we know nothing of, and who, in my Country Opinion, Maſter, deſerv'd another Sort of Epithet, than that of Pretender. Nor can I be convinc'd, that we ought to have taken the leaſt Notice of him, or given our ſelves any Trouble about the Means of his retiring from *France*, in Caſe of a Treaty of Peace, for *a Perſon we know nothing of*, as a reverend Biſhop worded it in a late Sermon before the Queen, deſerves none of our Regard, any otherwiſe than to ſecure our ſelves effectually againſt all Popiſh Succeſſors, by what Title ſoever dignify'd or diſtinguiſh'd.

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